

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EIND, SU, US

SUBJECT: KH CEMENT PLANT PROJECT

REF: KHARTOUM 0348

BEGIN SUMMARY: KH HOPEFUL IT MAKING HEADWAY WITH GOS AFTER MEETING WITH NIMEIRI, BUT MININDUSTRY REMAINS HIGH HURDLE. KHASHOGGI AND TRIAD, WHILE OUT OF PROJECT, ARE STILL CONFUSING ISSUE. OIIC REPORTEDLY HAS SOUGHT AND RECEIVED CLARIFICATION DIRECTLY FROM GOS RE SUDANESE PRIVATE PARTICIPATION. END SUMMARY.

1. KINARD AND NBNEY OF KH ARE DOGGEDLY PURSUING THEIR CASE AND PROFESS TO BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT CEMPRO WILL EVENTUALLY WIN GOS BLESSING. WITH ASSIST FROM DR. BAH AL-DIN IDRIS, KINARD HAD AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ON FEBRUARY 3. HE FOUND LOCAL TRIAD REP THOMPSON THERE. KINARD TELLS US HE SOUGHT NIMEIRI'S HELP IN GETTING FINANCING FROM ARAB INVESTMENT COMPANY AND PERSUADING MINISTERS CONCERNED TO COOPERATE WITH KH. ACCORDING KINARD, NIMEIRI LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY AND SAID HE WOULD HELP AND GIVE MATTER "HIGHEST PRIORITY." KINARD AND HONEY SCHEDULED TO SEE MININDUSTRY BADR AL-DIN SULIMAN FEB 8.

2. WE UNDERSTAND ADNAN KHASHOGGI MENTIONED PROJECT IN MEETING WITH NIMEIRI JANUARY 31 AND THAT THOMPSON SAW
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NIMEIRI ALONE PRIOR TO JOINT MEETING WITH KINARD REPORTED

ABOVE. TRIAD REPORTEDLY FEELS IT HAS CONTINUING INTEREST IN SEEING KH PROJECT GO SINCE IT ORIGINALLY SPONSORED SCHEME AND WOULD LIKE RECOVER COSTS INCURRED BEFORE TRIAD CONNECTION CUT. IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO KH THAT NIMEIRI AWARE OF TRIAD SEVERANCE OR THAT HIS REPORTED WILLINGNESS BE HELPFUL NOT BASED ON MISAPPREHENSION THAT TRIAD STILL A PARTNER. KINARD INTENDS SET THIS STRAIGHT FOR SULIMAN, WHO NOT KINDLY DISPOSED TOWARD TRIAD.

3. ACCORDING KINARD, OPIC RECENTLY CONTACTED SULIMAN SEEKING CONFIRMATION THAT, WHILE PRIVATE SUDANESE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING INITIAL INVESTMENT IN CEMPRO, THEY WILL BE PERMITTED BUY IN LATER WHEN PROJECT IN OPERATION. SULIMAN REPORTEDLY REPLIED TO OPIC IN THE AFFIRMATIVE (THUS SATISFYING OPIC REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PRIVATE PARTICIPATION).

4. COMMENT: CONTINUING TRIAD ROLE COULD GET QUITE STICKY, PARTICULARLY SINCE NIMEIRI AND SULIMAN TAKE OPPOSITE VIEWS OF THAT OPERATION. WHEN ASKED WE HAVE ASSURED SUDANESE OFFICIALS THAT TRIAD DISASSOCIATION WAS IN FACT A CONDITION OF OPIC PARTICIPATION. AS FOR REPORTED EXCHANGE BETWEEN OPIC AND SULIMAN, WE MUST REMIND WASHINGTON THAT EMBASSY ABILITY BE HELPFUL IN THIS CASE DEPENDENT ON BEING KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF USG ACTIVITY.
BREWER

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